

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 AID-05 CIAE-00 FRB-03 INR-07

NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 CIEP-01

LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 DOTE-00 /048 W

----- 007292

R 031501Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO USDOC WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2711

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USDOC FOR BIC/OED/OBOD/OPOS AND BIC/OIM/CARIBBEAN

STATE PASS EXIMBANK

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BPRO, BEXP, BMEP, BTIO, DR

SUBJECT: MUNICIPAL BUSES FOR SANTO DOMINGO

1. IN FIRST PUBLIC REVELATION OF PLANNED CITY BUS ACQUISITION, SANTO DOMINGO MAYOR JUAN ESTRELLA ANNOUNCED JANUARY 29 THAT DISCUSSIONS LEADING TOWARD FIRST PURCHASES WOULD BEGIN SOMETIME DURING FEBRUARY. RATHER THAN A DIRECT SALE TO THE CITY GOVERNMENT, HOWEVER, THE BUSES WOULD IN EFFECT, BE BOUGHT AND MAINTAINED BY THE VARIOUS EXISTING SINDICATOS (UNIONS) OF AUTOMOBILE CHAUFFEURS; THE GODR WOULD GUARANTEE THE FINANCING, WHICH WOULD BE ARRANGED TO ALLOW NO DOWN PAYMENT BY THE SINDICATOS. A NEW QUASI-INDEPENDENT AGENCY WITHIN THE CITY GOVERNMENT WOULD BE CREATED TO COORDINATE THE SYSTEM. ESTRELLA EMPHASIZED THAT THE SINDICATOS THEMSELVES WOULD BE NEGOTIATING WITH THE BUS MANUFACTURERS, WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE NEW AGENCY, AND THAT PURCHASE OF AN ESTIMATED 400 BUSES WOULD BE MADE GRADUALLY, SINCE MANY CHAUFFEURS WERE STILL MAKING PAYMENTS ON THEIR PUBLICOS (TAXIS). HE ESTIMATED TOTAL VALUE OF THE SALE AT \$20 MILLION.

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3. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE USDOC INFORMING US

BUS MANUFACTURERS ALREADY CONTACTED OF FOREGOING. AM GENERAL
REPRESENTATIVES SPECIFICALLY ASKED THAT WE KEEP THEM UP TO DATE
(MR. CURRIE OR GEN, LOLLI, 313-722-4900). OTHER FIRMS THAT WE
KNOW OF WHICH ARE INTERESTED ARE GMC, BLUEBIRD AND MACK. EMBASSY
WILL FORWARD LIST OF SINDICATOS INVOLVED BY SEPTEL.

4. FYI. ESTRELLA TOLD EMBASSY OFFICER JANUARY 31 THAT HE REALIZED
SYSTEM BASED ON SINDICATO OWNERSHIP AND MAINTENANCE WAS COMPROMISE
BETWEEN THE MOST ECONOMICALLY SOUND WAY (CONTROL OF ALL VEHICLES
BY A SINGLE AGENCY OR FIRM) AND THE DEMANDS OF LOCAL POLITICS,
I.E. THE POLITICAL POWER OF THE SINDICATOS. HE STILL EXPECTS
QUOTE SOME TROUBLE UNQUOTE FROM THEM BUT WAS CERTAIN THAT THE
PROPOSED PLAN WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED. COMMENT: THE ADDITION OF THE
POLITICALLY VOLATILE SINDICATOS TO THE MIX WILL ALMOST
CERTAINLY MAKE THIS SALE A DIFFICULT AND PROTRACTED ONE FOR
US FIRMS INVOLVED.

HURWITCH

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